

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Date (month / year): March 2018

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

62-0-6A-0

Hanover

HNS.219

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (neighborhood or village):
Hanson

Address: 552 Indian Head Street

Historic Name: Warren Howland House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling

Original: Single Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1845

Source: White's History, Map 6, #92, Page 118

Style/Form: Greek Revival Cottage

Architect/Builder: Caleb Barker

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite block, concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Attached Barn

Major Alterations (with dates): Replacement windows, wood shingle siding, and wood doors

Condition: Excellent

Moved: no

yes **Date:**

Acreage: 9.12 acres

Setting: Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares in an area of predominantly single-family homes ranging from early eighteenth century farmhouses to late twentieth century suburban development on large lots which includes grass lawns and numerous mature trees, bushes, and other vegetation.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.219

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The mid-nineteenth century one-and-a-half story Greek Revival style cottage is located on a wide lot with additions on the rear corners of both side facades. The house faces west towards Indian Head Street, with a steep gable end roof punctuated by gable-end dormers on both side facades. A one-and-a-half story gable roofed ell projects from the northeast corner of the north façade. On the south facades, along connecting ell in the southeast corner of the façade attaches the former barn, now garage, directly to the house. The structure is sided in wood shingle siding with wood trim, and its windows are predominantly six-over-six double hung wood windows protected by storm windows. The narrow muntins on these windows suggest that they are twentieth century replacements, but there are also a few smaller wood windows scattered around the house that might be early or original to the building.

The main gable end section of the house faces west and has slightly projecting eaves, the lower edges of which are finished in wide, well detailed wood molding with returns at the lower corners of the eaves above the wide, painted corner boards. All of the window frames have headers which arch up into small, center points with a narrow projecting band of wood trim along the upper edge. Meanwhile, the window sills are simply narrow projecting boards. The west façade has two double hung windows in the gable end and two in the first floor to the left of the main door, which is located in the right corner of the facade. While the door frame appears to be original to the house, the rustic style wood door is not. The roof frame has a high, flat projecting edge over a wide board cornice stretching over the door, sidelights and pilasters which run down the outer edge of the surround. Each pilaster has a narrow capital which extends into the lower edge of the cornice trim just above the door. The sidelights include five large rectangular glass panes over a wood panel in the lower edge. The previously mentioned door is a solid varnished wood door with long strap hinges. Cement stairs lead down from the door with metal railings to each side.

On the north façade of the house, a wide band of cornice band on the north facade wraps around a square-sided, projecting bay and extends across the west elevation of the ear ell. A large, undetailed dormer positioned above the projecting bay on the main block appears to be a later addition, but the bay itself is original to the house as the granite foundation extends below it and the feature has the same wide projecting cornice trim seen on the main body of the house. Windows are visible in the upper half of the north and west sides of the bay and have the same arched window frames found on the rest of the building. A narrow one-over-one replacement window is visible on the west side of the bay, while the north façade appears to have the same six-over-six double hung window seen elsewhere on the house.

Behind the bay, the northeast ell extends north from the main building, with a small, narrow bumpout behind the bay which extends the gable roof down slightly farther. The north façade of the ell has the same trim and detailing as the side façade of the main house, with one smaller four-over-four double hung window in the west façade of the bumpout which may be an early or original wood window. To the left of the bumpout are two double hung windows with a same wood window frames found on the main body of the house. The north, gable end façade of the northeast ell has eaves which project out slightly from the building and narrow returns but

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.219

lacks the wood molding and details seen on the main structure. In the gable end, a large three-part window has replaced the original window pattern. This window includes three transoms over three one-over-one wood double hung windows. Below, two double hung windows are located on the first floor of the façade. While the main house has a granite block foundation, the foundation of this ell is concrete.

On the south façade of the main house, two low chimneys peak up from just below the ridge on this façade. A single dormer is located to the right of the façade's center but unlike the one on the north façade, this dormer, has projecting eaves and minor wood details. The window here is also smaller than the proportions of the dormer would suggest and is an eight-over-eight vinyl simulated divided light replacement window. The façade itself matches the trim details on the north façade with the same wide cornice trim, window frames, and flat roofed projecting bay, this time curved rather than square, in the southeast corner adjacent to the projecting ell. Three double hung windows line the façade to the left of the side entrance. The side entrance door is covered by a metal storm door. Above it, the door frame is designed to match the window frames on the house. A set of brick stairs with metal railings on both sides leads from the door to a brick walkway that leads to the driveway. To the right of the side entrance, the three-part bay has a flat roof which attaches just below the cornice of the main building. The bay itself has a narrower wood cornice and the same window frame detail used on the main house. The bay has a central six-over-six window flanked by a four-over-four window on each side.

In the southeast corner, the gable end roofed barn is connected to the house by a tall, one-story ell which either has a flat roof or a lean-to style roof pitching to the rear. The connector has no detail aside from a narrow trim board across the upper edge and a single set of three, four-over-four wood windows to the right of the façade's center. Meanwhile, the gable-end of the barn is finished with molding and trim that is similar to, but slightly narrower than, the trim on the west façade of the house. Small returns are located on both sides of the projecting gable end, and the hayloft door at the center of the gable end has the same finish and design as the west façade's front door. A large, vertical wood board sliding barn door is located in the left corner of the barn's west façade where the driveway runs into the building. An eleven-light transom is located over the solid wood door, and a double hung window is visible behind a tree to its right. The south façade of the barn is a solid, wood shingled wall.

The house is located on a wide lot adjacent to the main road. A low, dry laid stone wall runs the length of the west property line, with breaks in the wall for the driveway entrances to the south of the building. The asphalt paved driveway has a semi-circular design and also leads to the barn. Low, flat stone walls surround planting beds along the south and west façade of the house and the surrounding lawn is dotted with mature trees and bushes.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to *White's History of Hanson*, 552 Indian Head Street was built around 1845 by Caleb Barker(1813-1902)¹ for Warren Howland(1813-1846) and was the fourth house built on the site. Caleb Barker was born in Hanson and had a contracting and construction business in Hanson and Boston. White notes that Barker also constructed the Luther Holmes House, no longer standing, and there may be others in town that are attributed to Barker and his company. IN terms of 552 Indian Head Street, White notes that one of the previous houses had been owned by Josephus Bryant. Deeds show that Warren Howland purchased a property formerly owned by Ephraim Bryant "with the buildings attending thereof" from a Nathaniel Damon in 1842.² The lot is described as being located on the east side of Indian Head Street and adjacent to the White's land. Warren appears to have built the house for his new bride, Deborah Bates(1819-1892), but lived there only a short time before his death

¹FindaGrave Memorial # 105160963 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/105160963>)

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1276, Page 207

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.219

in 1846. In 1848, Deborah married Barnabus Everson (1825-1896), a mason and farmer, and had two children, Richard Abbott Everson (1850-1935) and Imogene Lillian Everson McClellan (1852-1934)³. Barnabus Everson owned a number of parcels in the area surrounding Indian Head Street as shown on the local atlases. On the 1856 Walling Map, B. Everson is shown as owning two houses on the west side of Indian Head Street and one on the east side (552 Indian Head Street). By the 1879 Walker Atlas, Everson appears to have sold the northwestern most property to F. Estes but is listed at the southern property on the west side of Indian Head Street while 552 Indian Head Street to the east is now listed at Mrs. B. Everson's house (552 Indian Head Street). The majority of these lots were sold by Richard Everson or transferred to Imogene and her husband, George McClellan, after Barnabus' death. While White's history lists this house as also belonging to Ezra White, Ezra appear to have actually purchased the lot to the north of this site from the Warren Howland Estate, as the deed mentions that the property is the one to the north of the parcel purchased from Nathaniel Damon.⁴ This confusion may be caused by the 1903 Richards Atlas, which does not show either Everson or McNeill as owning a house here, but does show E. White as living in close proximity.

In 1897, Imogene and Richard appear to have sold all of the lots which the family owned to various property owners. What is not clear, however, is how the lot was acquired by Thomas Nugent, the next clear owner of the parcel. Nugent lived on Indian Head Street at the time of the 1910 U.S. Census, and purchased several parcels on the street from George Wheeler, William Howland, and the heirs of Lucy Beal, but there is no record of any purchases by Nugent from Everson or McClellan. However, in 1908, Nugent sold this parcel as well as other Indian Head Street parcels to Jessie McClure.⁵ McClure lived in Boston and may have used the estate as a summer home. When the property was sold again after her death, it was listed as having a house and barn, the first specific reference made to the structures on the site. The property was purchased in 1937 by Edward and Harriet Sears of Quincy who established a large estate running east from Indian Head Street to Maquan Pond.⁶ In 1948, the estate was sold to the Rainbow Camp, which continues to operate from next door at 526 Indian Head Street today. The Rainbow Camp was founded in 1948 by Lulu Bogrech, who had also founded the Rainbow Assemblies in Massachusetts, a Masonic youth service organization. The non-profit organization strives to "give girls the tools, training, and encouragement to let their individual spirits shine bright."⁷ The Rainbow Camp functions as an overnight summer camp for girls who are members of the organization.

The Camp subdivided the property in 1951, creating the current 1.56-acre lot at 552 Indian Head Street, and sold the property to Alfred and Patricia Pillsbury.⁸ The property changed hands regularly through the rest of the twentieth century. In 1968 the Pillsbury's sold the property to Theodore and Virginia Hammond, who sold it in 1970 to Ethel Dooley McNeil, who was already living in it at that time.⁹ In 1974, Ethel sold the house to Robert and Lucille Gaunt, who sold it a few years later to Frederick Heyl III in 1977. Current owners Nicholas Donahue and Marianne DiMascio purchased the property from Heyl in 2006.¹⁰

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³ FindaGrave Memorial #87236314, etc. (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87236314>)

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3283, Page 721

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1010, 422

⁶ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1783, 121

⁷ Rainbow Camp of Massachusetts Website, <http://www.massiorg.net/rainbow/default.php>

⁸ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 2168, Page 48

⁹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3606, page 268

¹⁰ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 33729, page 267

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



HNS.219

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.219



Above, northwest corner of house. Below, south façade with barn. Photos taken by Lara Kritzer

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

552

Indian Head Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.219

